Donate Your Old Car to CID!

Do you have an old “junker” car sitting in your driveway? Donate Your Old Car to CID and receive a tax write-off. CID is now accepting donations. You will receive a tax donation receipt that you may use to reduce your personal income tax. You will also gain from the satisfaction of knowing that your donation will help CID. For more information, call Steve Freier at (650) 595-0783 ext. 115 or Brent Duisenberg at ext. 116.

FREE TELEPHONES & LOW-COST BASIC PHONE SERVICE!

If you have a temporary or permanent disability you may be eligible for a free telephone. CTAP has telephone products available to make your life easier when using your phone.

The Client Assistance Program

The Client Assistance Program assists persons who are having a problem with services from the Department of Rehabilitation. CAP gets a release from the consumer so we can talk to the assigned counselor to see how we can resolve issues. This can take time. CAP reads the case notes and compares them to the California Code of Regulations and the Federal Code of Regulations to make sure that the Department of Rehabilitation is following correct procedure. CAP has been very successful in assisting consumers problems with the Department of Rehabilitation.

If you feel you need assistance with the Department of Rehabilitation please call Lesa O’Mara or Denise Hunter at 650-591-0129.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

Volunteers who help our consumers with grocery shopping and managing their financial obligations are always appreciated. Volunteers make a world of difference and the time they spend helping others is really rewarding. We have some wonderful volunteers to mention for special recognition. VIMM: David Galli & Kristin Childs. SASH: Barbara Kendrick & Joanne Ware. Our Community Garden

by Marta Florez

The Center For Independence of the Disabled celebrated the official ground-breaking of the community garden on Thursday, May 12, 2005. In attendance was the CID past Board President Dave Lawrence, along with the Non-profit Community Garden Director’s Report

The Center for Independence of the Disabled is in its 26th year of operation in San Mateo County and still going strong. Throughout the years of operation CID has grown to our present size of 26 employees and a budget of $1,300,000.

During our 25th anniversary celebration last year, we honored many individuals who helped CID to get where it is today. Honored were the four Executive Directors in the Center’s history. They are Joanna Wallace, Lucy Muir, Eldon Luce, and Kent Mickelson. These outstanding individuals provided CID with excellent leadership and helped to make CID what it is today.

Also honored were past Board Presidents Dave Lawrence, Stacey Haever, Eldon Luce, and current President Percy Jones. These fine individuals volunteered their time and energy to set policy and take the lead in fund raising efforts to make CID strong. Hats off to current board members Dan Moga, Paoli Solomon-Rice, Sheila Kelly, and Mary Lou Orr for all their strong efforts on behalf of CID.

Volunteers also played a big part in making CID the success it is today. Honored at the celebration were James Stinehoff, Helen Lo, Scott Duisenberg, and Lillian Blaine. They represented the more than 100 people who volunteer their time and energy each year at CID.

The staff members at CID are the final piece of the puzzle in making CID what it is today. Current staff members Dan Alioto, Carlos Calderon, Laura Carpenter, Nicole Cortichito, Brent Duisenberg, Judith Duisenberg, Jamie Dunn, Chrisline Fitzgerald, Marta Florez, Steve Freier, Lois Glover, Denise Hunter, Kathy Kulak, Kent Mickelson, David Mon, Lesa O’Mara, Sally Pierotti, Ray Pittsinger, Tessa Poponyak, Gayle Pritz, Phyllis Ridley, Carol Torno, and Carisse Zacarias have done an outstanding job. They are the ones who are in the forefront in the fight to help people with disabilities live more independent and productive lives.

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The Center For Independence of the Disabled celebrated the official ground-breaking of the community garden on Thursday, May 12, 2005. In attendance was the CID past Board President Dave Lawrence, along with the Honorable Vice-Mayor of the City of Belmont, Phil Mathewson, who had many kind words for the Center. The goal of the project is to provide consumers with an opportunity to learn to raise fresh organic produce, to plan and prepare healthy meals and to participate in a recreational and social opportunity with other members of our community.

The project was made possible by the generous support of The City of Belmont, Hillsborough Garden Club, San Mateo County Second Harvest Food Bank, The City of Belmont, The Belmont Chamber, and The University of Notre Dame De Namur.

If you would like to support the future endeavors of the garden by making a donation please contact Marta at (650) 595-0783 ext. 118.

Brain Trauma Support Group

by Gayle Pritz, Peer Counselor

Hi Folks, I wanted to share some information with you. Every Friday from 1:00-3:00 p.m CID offers a support group for people who have experienced brain trauma. We meet at Community Gateway, located at 1764 Marco Polo Way in Burlingame. In an empathetic and compassion-filled room, individuals (Continued on Page 2)
YOUR VOTE COUNTS

by Jamie Dunn, Branch Coordinator

San Mateo County, along with several local agencies including the Center for Independence of the Disabled, recently sponsored three demonstrations of new, accessible voting machines. Branch Office staff attended the demonstration at the Doelter Senior Center in Daly City.

I was impressed with the effort being made by our county to assure that all citizens would be able to vote in private by the year 2006. This means that persons with disabilities would be able to cast their own votes without having someone from the polling place standing over their shoulder or filling in the ballot for them.

These new voting machines are designed to provide each disabled individual with the same voting experience as non-disabled persons. After trying out each machine, I found that there are many new solutions to the problems that disabled individuals have had when voting. At the same time, I realize that any new system will have a glitch or two and we will all have to be willing to speak up and inform county officials when we encounter any problems with the new machines.

Clearly, the county staff wants to provide the best machines for our disabled citizens available to meet their concerns. Most importantly, each of us must remember to go to our polling place and cast our votes. Barriers are being removed so that we may have the same life experiences as all other citizens, but all this work will be in vain if we don’t make the effort to vote.

San Mateo County “Test Drives” New Voting Equipment

by Nicole Cortichiato,
Systems Advocacy Coordinator

CID was proud to be part of community demonstrations designed to let people with disabilities “test drive” voting equipment. The three events were held at San Mateo, Menlo Park and Daly City.

There were two different voting machines for people to try. The first voting system was made by Election Systems and Software. They had an Auto mark touch screen along with an M100. The M100 is the device that actually counts the ballot.

The second machine was the eSlate version from the company HARF Intecore. This particular machine had a dial rather than a touch screen. Both systems were evaluated by people with all different disabilities. After voting, people were asked to fill out a survey evaluating the two machines.

The events were a success because about fifty people showed up with forty surveys handed in. The reasoning behind these events is directly linked to The Help America Vote Act (HAVA). HAVA was passed in October 2002. HAVA requires that by 2006 every precinct in the county have at least one voting machine or system that is accessible to people with disabilities.

In Memoriam

Jay Swee, our dear co-worker and friend, passed away on May 3, 2005. He was sixty years old. After Jay was diagnosed with lung cancer several years ago, he approached understanding his illness, his mortality, and the deeper meaning of his life with the same combination of intellectual curiosity, humor, and concern for others that he had applied to learning his job as a Benefits Planning Assistance Outreach Specialist. He was an excellent advocate for consumers who were negotiating Social Security’s rules regarding returning to work.

Jay had an avid interest in psychology, politics, and current events. Everybody who came in contact with him—consumers, co-workers, and personnel from other agencies alike—were invariably deeply moved by his unique personality, character, openness and directness, his fun-loving nature, and his humanity.

Jay approached issues from various directions, weaving together keen observations about the politics of human interaction and technical aspects of his job with deeper philosophical issues and personal preparation. These patients enough to listen to his digressions to the end were treated to new insights, always ending up feeling better about themselves.

Above all, Jay was a friend who will be remembered fondly and deeply missed. Our hearts go out to Jay’s wife, Rebecca, and to his daughter Kate.

- David Mon

Brain Trauma Support Group

(continued from front page)

share their experiences and recovery journeys from Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI) or Acquired Brain Injuries (ABI). As one lady in Group stated “Most of us had no advanced warning or preparation time before becoming disabled from strokes, automobile accidents, aneurysms etc. Within seconds our world went from high functioning to awaking in a hospital from a coma, and discovering that our language skills, mobility, and cognitive abilities had been altered.”

Our Group strongly believes that one can benefit from our considerable collective knowledge and experience. That is why our support group is important, as we have learned that proactive involvement, knowledge, self-awareness, and self-advocacy are keys to a better quality of life following a brain injury. Also, and maybe most importantly, we care about each other and provide an environment that is comforting and healing. Have a wonderful summer.

- Hugs, Gayle

For more information please call: Gayle Prytz at: 650-595-0783 ext. 124

Ray’s Corner

How to File Complaints

by Ray Pittsinger
Program Manager

Complaints about violations of Title I (employment) by units of State and local government or by private employers should be filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Call 800-669-4000 or 800-669-6820 (TTY) to reach the field office in your area.

For Title II and Title III (State and local government and public accommodations) complaints write:

U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division
350 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Disability Rights Section – NYAV
Washington, D.C. 20530

Domestic Violence

by Aris Tuquero-Zacarias

It can happen to anyone… Domestic violence occurs among people from all backgrounds and cultures, rich and poor. One in two women will be battered at least once in her life. Battering injuries more women than auto accidents, rapes and muggings combined.

You are not alone. Sor Juana Ines is dedicated to addressing domestic violence in all communities and fostering community commitment toward the elimination of domestic violence. They provide culturally sensitive and bilingual peer counseling and legal services to women and children who are survivors of domestic violence. Our services support each survivor’s decision-making and healing processes.

It is not your fault: You DO deserve better. You DO have choices. Find out what they are.

Do not wait any longer. Call SOR JUANA INES now! Call 1-800-300-100 to talk to people who understand and who can help you. (Source: Debbie -Sor Juana Ines)